Dear St Michael’s Families and Friends

Holy Week
This Sunday we celebrate Palm Sunday symbolising the beginning of Holy week. There is a message for each of us in every event of Holy Week, and we start by remembering how Jesus was welcomed by a crowd of excited followers who waved tree branches as a sign of welcome to Jerusalem.

A few days later on Holy Thursday Jesus gave His followers the celebration of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. How often do we follow Jesus’ request to ‘Do this in memory of me’ and celebrate the Eucharist?

In the garden after Supper, Jesus’ friends fell asleep, one disciple betrayed him and another denied even knowing him; then Jesus was arrested. So Jesus knew what it was like to have friends that disappoint!

Jesus suffered the humiliation of a trial and ridicule. Instead of defending himself he silently accepted the taunts and untruths that were being said about him. How confident are we of our own worth or do we constantly have to defend ourselves to others?

Jesus had the long journey to Calvary, carrying his own cross. Along the way he met his mother and friends. He did not ask for their sympathy, he did not look for compassion. Even at this time of suffering and loneliness Jesus prayed for them. This was total self-sacrifice. How do we respond when we are called to be self-less?

Along the way Simon was asked to help Jesus to carry the cross. Do I help others to bear their cross? Or am I inclined to say that if they get themselves into a mess then they should carry their own load?

Jesus died, a lonely and painful death on a cross, He gave His all for us!
But, there was still Easter Sunday to come!

We encourage all families to take some time to participate in the Easter ceremonies in the Church over the Easter weekend and use the reminders above to ensure Easter is not only about chocolate and rabbits - although we acknowledge the excitement of this aspect. (See the timetable for our Easter Liturgies on page 2 of this newsletter)

3-WAY CONFERENCES
This is a very important aspect of our reporting program and I thank you all for the way you have engaged with your children alongside the teachers to make this a positive experience. It is wonderful to see children proudly displaying their achievements and taking a responsible approach to setting goals for their further development. It provides consistency for the children in knowing that the school and home are working together to help them succeed.

This occasion provided an opportunity for the child to present their view. I remind all Parents/Guardians that should an issue or concern arise, either the Parent or the Teacher should organise a timely meeting to resolve the situation. We thank you for respecting the professional courtesy of making an appointment.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
School Photo Day is Holy Thursday, 2nd April. Although it is a sports day the students are expected to wear full normal school uniform.
The photo envelopes went home last week and are due back on or before photo day. Please see Lisa at the Front Office for sibling envelopes. All late orders incur a $20 fee.

PRAYERS
There are a number of members of our St Michael’s community who are in need of God’s help at the moment. Please keep them in your prayers.

Thought for the Week Promise me you’ll always remember: You’re braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think. (Christopher Robin to Pooh) A. A. Milne

Yours in partnership
Judy

COMING EVENTS
Friday 27th March
Whole School Prayer Time
3/4F @ 12.50
School Disco 5.00 & 6.30
Wednesday 1st April
First Supper Liturgy
Year 3/4 @ 9.30am

Thursday 2nd April
School Photo Day
Good Friday Liturgy
Year 5/6 @ 2pm

DATES TO REMEMBER
Thursday 9th April
Cross Country Carnival
Walkathon Launch
Assembly
Friday 10th April
Last day for Term 1

NOTES GONE HOME THIS WEEK
- AMF School holiday flyer
- Stuck On You sticker flyer
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MICHAEL’S

HARMONY DAY
Harmony Day was an amazing success. Thank you to all the families who donated to our Project Compassion Campaign for 2015. The giant coin fish that was created in the playground was a great display of our generosity as a community. There is still one week of Lent left and so the final collection of any donation boxes will take place in week 10.

EASTER LITURGIES
We will be celebrating Holy Week with a series of Easter Liturgies during weeks 9 and 10. The agenda is as follows:
- Palm Sunday will be presented by KD and 1/2S at 9:30am Tuesday 31st March.
- The Washing of the Feet and the Last Supper will be presented by Years 3 and 4 at 9:30 Wednesday 1st April.
- The Stations of the Cross will be presented by Year 5 and 6 at 2:00pm on Thursday 2nd April.
- The Resurrection will be presented by Years 1/2H and 1/2W at 9:30am on Wednesday 8th April.

THINK FEST
We had an amazing day yesterday as we experienced our first ‘Thinkfest’ at St Michael’s. The goal of promoting Thinking, Cooperation and Inclusion, and showing that EVERYONE CAN THINK was certainly achieved. Our responsible Year 6 leaders, capably assisted by our wonderful Year 5 students (with some amazing collaboration occurring) guided the younger students to ensure everyone was involved. The children were engaged for the whole day, in Learning that allowed them to showcase their gifts and talents and take some risks in other areas. We thank Mary and Penny for their detailed organisation for the day and their guidance throughout event.

CHIEF MINISTER’S READING CHALLENGE 2015
This year St Michael’s has enrolled in the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge. The Challenge requires students to read 12 books. We have decided to run the Challenge over 12 weeks. 12 books in 12 weeks. Forms for students to record their books will be sent home in week 10 Term 1 and are to be returned in week 10 Term 2. If students complete their form before the end of Term 2, they can submit their form in a specially marked box in the Library. Students are welcome to take another form and continue reading.

By participating students can win book vouchers for our school library.

The following is part of the Chief Minister’s message:

“This year you can choose your own books or ask your parents, teacher, librarian or Libraries ACT public librarian for their suggestions. You could even try one of my favourite books from when I was in year 6, The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 ¾.

I encourage you to be adventurous in your reading and choose a variety of books by different authors. You may want to choose to read some books in a language other than English.

My challenge is for even more of you to get into reading in 2015!”
BELCONNEN REGION SWIMMING CARNIVAL
This event will be taking place tomorrow Friday 27th March. Mrs Blakey will be the supervising teacher on the day and she will be at the AIS from 8.30am in the morning.

CROSS COUNTRY
The St Michael’s Cross Country Carnival is being held on Thursday 9th April (Week 10). We will be starting some training with the students soon, so please feel free to encourage them to get outside and run their little legs off. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help out on the day.

Please send your child/ren to school on this day in their sport uniform. If they would like to wear their house colour t-shirt they are most welcome to do so.

As there are some students attending an imaginarium on this day we will be holding this event for them at an earlier date and recording their times. This will ensure that they are accurately placed in their year group.

12 YEARS & UNDER SCHOOLS TENNIS- SINGLES
This event is taking place on the 29th April. If you have a child who will be 10 or older by 1st October, 2015, and you would like them to participate in this event, please send me an email (mary.desmet@cg.catholic.edu.au) and I can forward you all relevant information. Please note that; your child must be able to serve and score, there is a cost of $7 per player and there will not be a supervising teacher on the day.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK
All classes now have a parent representative except for 3/4F. If you would like to volunteer for this position, please email jo.krippner@cg.catholic.edu.au.

The Coordinator for this year is Michelle Hastie and there will be a meeting before the end of term for all parent representatives. Please look out for an email from Mrs Krippner to confirm this.

All families should hear from their class representative before the end of term. If you do not wish for the class rep to have your email address please see Lisa in the Front Office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:

Jana 5/6H, Ben 5/6W & Elom 5/6W
We hope you have a great day!

ST MICHAEL’S SCHOOL DISCO — FRIDAY 27TH MARCH
Don’t forget the St Michael’s School DISCO tomorrow night.

Kinder to Year 2 - 5.00pm till 6.00pm @ $4
Year 3 to Year 6 - 6.30pm till 8.00pm @ $5

There will be hot food, drinks and Glow Sticks to purchase from the Canteen on the night.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible to make this a great night for all our wonderful children.

CHANGES TO BUS SERVICES ON MONDAY 27 APRIL 2015
There is an important change to the school bus service on Monday 27 April 2015. This day has been declared a service holiday for all ACT Government employees due to Anzac Day (25 April) falling on a Saturday. However, it is not a gazetted public holiday for the rest of the ACT. The day will operate on a limited bus service on a Saturday timetable.

The parents of non ACT Government school children who normally use dedicated school services will need to make alternative arrangements to get their children to and from school on this day.

To help offset any inconvenience, all bus travel will be free of charge on Monday 27 April 2015. All students and general passengers will be asked to tag on and off with their MyWay card as usual to collect accurate travel data, but no fares will be deducted.

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ST MICHAEL’S PARISH CONTACT DETAILS
Administrator: Father Warrick Tonkin
Pastoral Assistant: Sr Kate McMahon
Address: 2 Tyrrell Circuit, Kaleen ACT 2617
Telephone: (02) 6241 3364  Fax: (02) 6241 0747
Parish Email: stm.kaleen@cg.catholic.org.au
Email: k.mcmahon3@bigpond.com

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am
Liturgy of the Word
Saturday: 9am
Weekend Masses
Sunday: 8am and 5.30pm

EASTER MASS TIMETABLE
* The Archbishop blesses the Oils that will be used for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick throughout the coming year.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location and time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25th March</td>
<td>2nd Rite of Reconciliation</td>
<td>St Michael’s 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th March</td>
<td>Palm Sunday Masses</td>
<td>as normal</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th March</td>
<td>Chrism Mass*</td>
<td>St. Christopher’s Cathedral 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd April</td>
<td>Holy Thursday (the Last Supper) Mass</td>
<td>St Michael’s 7:30pm with adoration until 10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd April</td>
<td>Good Friday (Passion of the Lord) Mass</td>
<td>St Michael’s 11:00am and at St Monica’s 3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th April</td>
<td>Easter Vigil Mass</td>
<td>St Monica’s at 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>Easter Sunday Mass</td>
<td>St Michael’s 8:00am and 5:30pm and at St. Monica’s 10am</td>
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ST MICHAEL’S MASTERMINDS
To enter, place your solution along with your full name and class into the competition box at the Front Office. Entries need to be in by next Wednesday. The first correct entry drawn will be published in next week’s newsletter and will receive a canteen voucher.

Last weeks answers:
K-2 (8 flowers)
- Mitchell KD
3-6 (11800 TV sets)
- Shakira 3/4P

MACDONALDS CHILDREN’S WEAR
Macdonalds Children’s Wear Jamison Plaza is having a sale on all St Michaels School winter uniforms. If you go into the store over the term holidays (11th April to 26th April) you will receive 15% discount off all winter uniform items! Go and see the friendly staff at Macdonalds Children’s Wear to get all your uniforms at a great price before the weather turns cold! Remember that the winter uniform is to be worn at the start of Term 2.

YEAR 7—2016 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING AND OPEN DAYS
Our Year 7 2016 Information Evening is being held on Monday 11th May commencing at 5pm with tours of the College and followed at 6.30pm with a formal information session.
SFX Open Day is Friday 15th May from 9am – 2.30pm.

The Merici Open Day is on Wednesday 6th May from 9.30am to 7pm.
Our Year 7 2016 Information Evening is being held on Tuesday 12th May from 6pm to 7.15pm.

MERICI COLLEGE
Wise Street, Braddon ACT 2612 | GPO Box 154, Canberra 2601 ph: (02) 6243 4100

The Year 7 2016 Daramalan Open Evening is Thursday 26th March from 5-7pm.
The Information Session is being held on Thursday 26th March from 7-8pm.

DARAMALAN COLLEGE
Cowper Street